

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA

MARIA GAGLIARDI,
64 Fulton Blvd.
Commack, NY 11725

Plaintiff

v.

METROPOLITAN LIFE
INSURANCE COMPANY
1255 Drummers Lane, #300,
Wayne, PA 19087

Defendant

NO.:

COMPLAINT

NOW COMES, the Plaintiff, Maria Gagliardi, by and through her Counsel, Pond, Lehocky, LLP, and hereby complains of the above referenced Defendant, Metropolitan Life Insurance Company (hereinafter referred to as “Met Life”), as follows:

I. STATEMENT OF JURISDICTION:

1. Jurisdiction is conferred upon this Honorable Court pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1331 and 29 U.S.C. § 1332(e). This Honorable Court has jurisdiction over all issues raising a federal question and this instant matter involves a disability policy issued to the Claimant through her Employer, thus it is governed by the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA) 29 U.S.C. § 1011, et seq.

II. FACTS:

2. The Plaintiff, Maria Gagliardi, is an adult and competent individual with a physical address of 64 Fulton Blvd., Commack, NY 11725.

3. The Defendant, Met Life, under information and belief, is a business entity with a principal place of business located at 1255 Drummers Lane #300, Wayne, PA 19087 with a corporate address located at 200 Park Avenue, New York, NY 10166.

4. Met Life is a business entity, which issues disability insurance policies governed by the Employee Retirement Insurance Security Act (ERISA), 29 U.S.C. §1011, et seq.

5. On a date certain, Met Life, issued a policy providing disability insurance benefits under policy number 2502 to the Plaintiff through the Plaintiff's employer, Elwood UFSD.

6. The policy of insurance aforementioned provided for an employee benefit plan as defined and covered under the terms of ERISA.

7. At all times material and relevant hereto, all policy premiums due on behalf of the Plaintiff under said policy were paid.

8. At all times material and relevant hereto, the Plaintiff performed all obligations required of her under said contract of insurance.

9. At all times material and relevant hereto, the Plaintiff was a qualified participant in the employee benefit plan provided by Metlife to the Plaintiff's

employer under the aforementioned policy.

10. On a date certain, the Plaintiff filed an application for long term disability benefits with Met Life. She received benefits under said policy through July 13, 2020.

11. Met Life notified the Plaintiff that her claim was terminated and that she was not entitled to benefits beyond July 13, 2020.

12. The Plaintiff filed an administrative appeal and submitted additional medical records and opinions of her treating doctors in support of her claim.

13. By correspondence dated December 15, 2020, Met Life denied the Plaintiff's administrative appeal and informed her of her right to bring a civil action disputing the adverse benefit decision.

14. Met Life abused its discretion and acted in a manner serving only its own business interest when it denied the Plaintiff's claim for disability benefits.

15. The actions of Met Life in denying the Plaintiff's claim for disability insurance benefits was arbitrary, capricious and made in violation of 29 U.S.C. §1001, et seq.

16. The actions of Met Life in denying the Plaintiff's claim for disability insurance benefits are contrary to the language of the policy in question.

17. The Plaintiff is entitled to disability insurance benefits under the aforementioned policy as she has satisfied through medical evidence that she meets

the definition of disability under the policy of insurance.

18. The Plaintiff is entitled to recover the benefits due to her under the aforementioned insurance policy in accordance with 29 U.S.C. §1132.

19. As a direct and proximate result of the actions of Met Life as herein above more particularly described, the Plaintiff has been caused to incur attorneys' fees in an amount not yet known.

20. As a direct and proximate result of the actions of Met Life, the Plaintiff has sustained damages in an amount not yet known to the Plaintiff; however, upon information and belief, such damages will approximate the amount of benefits due and owing to the Plaintiff from July 13, 2020 to the present and continuing into the future.

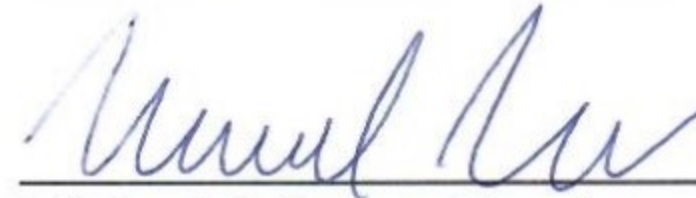
WHEREFORE, the Plaintiff, Maria Gagliardi, respectfully requests that judgment be entered against Met Life as follows:

1. Ordering Met Life to pay to the Plaintiff, Maria Gagliardi, long term disability insurance benefits from July 13, 2020 to the present and continuing into the future as provided for in the policy of insurance;
2. Awarding the Plaintiff, Maria Gagliardi, prejudgment interest on the award until the date of judgment;
3. Awarding the Plaintiff's attorney's fees, court costs and other reasonable costs incurred for the prosecution of the instant action;

4. Granting such other and further relief as the Court may deem just and proper.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

BY:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Michael J. Parker", is written over a horizontal line.

Michael J. Parker, Esquire
PA ID No. 93024

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